

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: September 18, 2005
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WEATHER



A broad low pressure trough lay over the western United States at the start of the week, bringing cooler than normal temperatures to California. A weak high pressure ridge developed over the West Coast by midweek, which warmed temperatures slightly, although they remained below seasonal normals. This high pressure did not last long, as a low pressure trough returned to the West Coast, and by Friday, a few showers moved across the northern portion of the State. This rainfall was confined to the north coast, the northern portions of the Sacramento Valley, and the northern Sierra Nevada, while Southern California remained dry. The low pressure remained over California for the weekend, keeping temperatures below normal.

FIELD CROPS

Cotton progressed well last week with bolls opening in most fields. The final irrigation for cotton was almost complete, and preparations for defoliation had begun. Whitefly was showing up in some cotton fields. **Rice** harvest continued moving at a slow pace. **Sugar beet** harvest almost complete, and the planting of the new fall crop continued. The sixth cutting of **alfalfa** hay was almost complete in the San Joaquin Valley, and fields were prepared for new plantings. Harvest of field **corn** for silage continued, and the harvested fields were being disced under and prepared for fall plantings. Desiccation of seed alfalfa fields was finished and harvest activities were winding down. **Milo** was beginning to head out. Ground preparation continued for dryland **wheat** and **oat** hay.

FRUIT CROPS

Raisin **grape** harvest continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Reports indicated that approximately half of the crop was picked and laid on trays to dry. An estimated 10 percent of the crop had been rolled and 9 percent had already been picked up and placed into bins. Some growers were turning to mechanical harvesting due to a shortage of labor. Dried on the vine raisins continued to dry in the vineyards. Table grapes continued to be picked. Wine and juice grape harvest continued with Carignane, French Colombard, Barbera, Merlot, Chenin Blanc, Grenache, and Palomino varieties being harvested for wine making. The stone fruit season was nearing completion in many areas. Among the varieties harvested were Angelino and October Gem **plums**, September Sun and Snow Gem **peaches**, and Red Jim and Arctic Pride **nectarines**. A few stone fruit orchards were removed following harvest and stacked for disposal. Pineapple **quince** and Early Foothill and Early Wonderful **pomegranates** were harvested. Acid tests in pomegranate juice were excellent but coloring of juice and rind was low. Color should increase with cooler nighttime temperatures. Harvest of Asian **Pears** was slowing down, with low yields and good quality reported in northern counties. **Kiwifruit** harvest began in Yuba County. The crop appeared to be very large and was progressing and sizing well. **Strawberry** plants in the San Joaquin Valley were showing good growth. Irrigation of citrus groves continued, and fruit was starting to size up. Picking and packing of Valencia **oranges** continued to wind down. Quality continued to deteriorate, and heavy grading was required to meet buyer's demands. Growers reported problems getting fruit picked due to lack of labor. This season's Navel orange crop continued to size well. Many **olive** orchards were treated for olive fruit fly.

NUT CROPS

Almond harvest continued but was nearing completion in some areas. Harvesting of **walnuts** began in many locations. Many nuts that had fallen off early were damaged and unmarketable. Walnut orchards were sprayed for codling moth. **Pistachio** harvest began in some locations.

VEGETABLE CROPS

As a result of the cooler weather, growers also saw slower production of various summer vegetables including **beans**, bitter **melons**, **gourds**, **okra**, **peppers** and some Oriental vegetables. Growers in the central coast noticed some quality problems in head **lettuce**. Planting of **cauliflower**, **broccoli**, and **spinach** was near completion and progressed normally. **Eggplant** harvest was in its peak season. **Asparagus**, **bell peppers**, **cantaloup**, **cucumbers**, dry beans, sweet **corn**, and **tomatoes** continued to be harvested.

LIVESTOCK

Supplemental feeding of cattle on dry foothill pastures continued. Fire danger remained high, but cooler weather was mitigating the situation in some areas. A few beef cows were moving from higher elevation pastures to foothill pastures where dry grass is abundant. Fall calving of beef cows continued. Yearling feeder cattle were shipping from summer pastures to market. Cooler weather reduced stress on milk cows, resulting in a return to normal milk production. In the central area, sheep grazed in harvested forage fields. Bees were being removed from late planted melon fields.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 09/18/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 09/18/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 09/18/05	January 1 - 09/18/05	Week Ending 09/18/05	July 1 - 09/18/05	July 1 - 09/18/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	52	-5	62	47	11	0	0.11	0.44	1.02	37.53
Ukiah	63	-6	85	43	1,279	1,299	0.00	0.00	0.58	37.96
Santa Rosa	60	-7	79	46	647	772	0.00	0.04	0.43	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	60	-4	73	52	407	351	0.00	0.06	0.20	19.70
San Jose	63	-5	78	52	1,081	1,134	0.00	0.01	0.20	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1,367	1,255	0.00	0.00	0.19	14.21
Salinas AP	60	-5	73	47	328	331	0.00	0.04	0.18	12.44
Monterey FAA	58	-3	66	49	112	109	0.00	0.01	0.33	18.72
King City	62	-5	83	44	1,069	884	0.00	0.02	0.13	11.44
Paso Robles AP	64	-5	84	41	1,452	1,381	0.00	0.08	0.19	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	68	-7	88	48	2,308	2,207	0.00	0.01	0.90	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	67	-8	87	48	2,198	2,296	0.00	0.03	0.63	22.29
Chico AFS	67	-5	86	49	2,055	1,820	0.00	0.00	0.57	26.32
Marysville	66	-8	85	47	1,991	2,134	0.00	0.00	0.34	21.04
Sacramento AP	66	-6	85	49	1,702	1,677	0.00	0.00	0.30	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	67	-6	86	50	2,021	1,934	0.01	0.32	0.23	13.95
Fresno	69	-6	86	53	2,600	2,458	0.00	0.00	0.17	10.60
Bakersfield	69	-8	85	55	2,667	2,705	0.00	0.02	0.19	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	59	-5	72	46	317	333	0.00	0.00	0.26	12.36
Santa Barbara	59	-7	70	47	472	603	0.17	0.27	0.40	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	790	724	0.00	0.00	0.23	14.38
Los Angeles	67	-7	77	57	1,642	1,890	0.00	0.00	0.30	14.77
Riverside	69	-5	89	52	2,087	1,974	0.00	0.00	0.34	9.58
San Diego AP	67	-5	72	62	1,314	1,378	0.00	0.01	0.24	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	61	-6	84	36	1,605	1,496	0.00	0.43	0.47	5.37
Lancaster	68	-5	88	46	2,186	2,133	0.00	0.01	0.42	6.92
Daggett AP	74	-6	94	56	3,317	3,433	0.00	0.50	1.06	3.93
Thermal AP	80	-5	97	57	4,234	4,135	0.00	0.00	0.83	3.16
Blythe	79	-8	99	60	4,531	4,571	0.00	1.35	1.24	3.60
Imperial	82	-4	115	62	4,362	4,292	0.00	0.68	0.66	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	51	-6	78	27	555	296	0.13	0.15	1.03	12.01
Mt. Shasta	56	-4	78	34	652	446	0.02	0.07	1.42	37.02
Blue Canyon	56	-6	67	44	826	567	0.00	0.00	1.85	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	1,221	1,038	0.00	0.00	1.35	37.05

Normal is defined as average over the 30-year period 1961 through 1990. Dashes (- -) in Average Week Ending and Departure from Normal columns mean less than five days reporting, while in High and Low columns mean no days reporting.

Weekly summary provided by the Western Regional Climate Center with data reported by the National Weather Service. When data are quality controlled by the National Climatic Data Center, the accumulated growing degree day and precipitation values are updated.